

**MERCHANT COUNTERSTAMPS**  
**on**  
**AMERICAN SILVER COINS**

**by**  
**Maurice M. Gould**



\$15.-  
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# **MERCHANT COUNTERSTAMPS on AMERICAN SILVER COINS**

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**A descriptive catalog of the various counterstamps and counter-  
marks impressed on United States and Spanish American silver  
coins by Merchants and others for the purpose of advertising.**

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## FOREWORD

For many years I have been assembling material pertaining to counter-stamped and countermarked coins. The task of compiling a catalog in this field is difficult since very little published information exists.

However, the recent new interest in the more serious aspects of American Numismatics suggests that the material gathered to date be now published. This listing has been made as complete as possible but, predictably, new varieties will be found and additional research attempted for the benefit of all.

For collectors interested in the counterstamps of the West Indies, the Howland Wood work, "Coinage of the West Indies" is an excellent standard. Ray Byrne is currently writing a new reference in this field.

Those who are attracted to counterstamped large cents will find of value the writer's articles which appeared in the Numismatist in July 1947 and in 1957.

Al Hoch is working on this series and it is hoped that a larger listing will be available in the not too distant future.

It is difficult to note realistic values of counterstamped material at the present time as there are too few sales and a lack of current auction data. We would say that a conservative estimate would be from \$20.00 to \$45.00 for the regular items, while some of extreme rarity and desirability would command significantly more.

February 1962  
Boston, Mass.

Maurice M. Gould



## COUNTERSTAMPED U.S. SILVER COINS

One of the most fascinating phases of numismatics is the collecting and attributing of counterstamped coins. Very little has ever been written about the U. S. silver pieces and these are among the most interesting and scarcest.

It is not unusual to make finds of new varieties due to lack of interest and research in recent years. During the 1880's a great deal of attention was paid to collecting tokens and at this period some of these pieces were collected and recorded. All of these are scarce to unique and we are sure that more will be added as the years go by.

Coins were counterstamped or countermarked for three basic reasons:

- (1) To indicate official sanction or adoption as legal specie which passed current as money (mostly in the West Indies and South America).
- (2) For advertising, symbolic or utilitarian purposes for merchants, fraternal organizations, political campaigns, admission requirements, etc.
- (3) For personal, random or testing purposes such as those initiated by individuals or used for the testing of silversmith's punches, etc.

The most important group of U. S. counterstamps are those used as an advertising medium and are listed as follows:

### U. S. SILVER DOLLARS

1. E. B. on 1799 \$1. This unique piece is listed in the Bolender book and is one of the genuine counterstamps of the famous Ephraim Brasher.
2. 1795, HOUCK'S PANACEA, BALTIMORE.
3. 1872, E.G. & S.M. COMPANY, in curved small counterstamp



4. 1795, PATENT/H. JONES, 1854.
5. 1843, J. L. POLHEMUS, DRUGGIST, 190 J ST. COR. 7th
6. 1860, CHARLES H. RICHARDSON, BATON ROUGE, LA.
7. 1867, obv. ROBERT TURNER & SON; rev. BALTIMORE

#### TRADE DOLLARS

21. 1873, Lotus in large oblong counterstamp



22. 1874, SAGE'S CANDY COIN

## U.S. HALF DOLLARS

- 30. 1825, E.E. CHILD'S JR., 16 CHAPMAN PLACE
- 31. 1857, FRENCH & SON, obv. and rev.
- 32. 1853 and 1858; CHINA TEA CO. (Bangor, Maine)
- 33. HOUCK'S PANACEA, on various dates of bust half-dollars



- 34. 1865, JOHN H. JENKINS, SILVER GROVE
- 35. 1810 and 1833; McKENNEY-GUNSMITH, BIDDEFORD (Maine)
- 36. 1817, DR. KIRSTEAD, DENTIST, BOSTON
- 37. 1833, obv. PHILADELPHIA; rev. WARRANTED
- 38. 1874, SAGE'S CANDY COIN
- 39. 1865, PARISIAN VARIETIES, 16th ST. and BROADWAY, NEW YORK
- 40. Lib. seated half-dollar, W. PACKARD, ELYRIA, OHIO
- 41. 1876, SAGADA HOCKHOUSE
- 42. 1853, DR. SHATTUCK'S WATER CURE, WATERFORD, MAINE
- 43. 1859, WE RECOMMEND WALTIN'S BITTERS
- 44. 1833, DR. G. G. WILKINS
- 45. 1842, YOUNG THE MAGICIAN



46. Obv. R. R. 1879; Rev. T. H. H. 12½¢; on 1872 half-dollar. This is a unique trail strike of the Thomas Hobron Hawaiian Token listed in the Gould catalog of Hawaiian Coins and Tokens.
47. 1901, VIVA EL COCO. This counterstamp was used in Puerto Rico to publicize the cocoanut and there is a very interesting story connected with it which was sent to me by a Puerto Rican collector. It is lengthy and I hope to write the complete story in a future article.

#### U.S. QUARTER DOLLARS

70. 1876, USE DR. W. H. ALLEN'S SWEET WORM WAFERS, YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO. PRICE \$1.00. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.



71. 1857, H. A. BALCH, ARTIST, JOLIET, ILL.



- 72. Lib. seated quarter, J. L. BARNES SALOON, BRYAN, TEX
- 73. 1877, BRINKS
- 74. 1806, JAS. S. BRADLEY, GILPER and FRAMEMAKER, 154 WILLIAMS ST., NEW YORK – very rare



- 75. 1853, China Tea Co., Bangor, Me.



- 76. 1858, TRY COREY'S OINTMENT
- 77. Lib seated quarter, JAMES B. DARLING, CHICAGO, ILL.
- 78. 1819, HOWARD & DAVIS, BOSTON on obv., L.Y. on rev.
- 79. 1878, G.N. DEMOND, GORHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE

80. 1853, R.L. FRAZER, JEWELER, LAWRENCE, KT. very rare
81. 1854, Use G.G.G. and G.G.G.G.
82. 1875, G.S. GATES, RUTLAND, MASS.
83. 1804, CHAS. W. GEEKIE, NO.



84. 1853, AMBROTYPE BY MOSES HALE



85. 1854, J. E. HUDSON, PROV., R.I. on obv and rev.
86. 1853, STR. JEWEL (The Steamer Jewel was a coastwise craft running from Portland, Maine to Gardner and also to Nova Scotia about 1900).
87. KNIGHTS MINERAL SALOON
88. Lib. seated, LOVETT'S PRIVATE STOCK WHISKEY
89. Lib. seated, E. SMET. MONT.
90. 1807, MODEL ARTISTS EXHIBITION (admit to the Model Artists, 127 Grand St., near B'wy. very rare)



- 91. Lib. seated, J. J. OUTLEY, ARTIST
- 92. 1847, SAGE'S CANDY COIN



- 93. 1853, J.M. TAYLOR, BROKER, CHATHAM ST., COR. JAMES, N.Y.
- 94. 1857, WILDER HOUSE
- 95. 1856, DR. SHATTUCK'S WATER CURE, WATERFORD, MAINE
- 96. 1853, YANKEE BLADE
- 97. 1876, MILLER HOUSE

#### U.S. DIMES

- 150. 1821, AYER
- 160. Lib. seated, COLUMBIA AND SHAMROCK rev., 10 SENSE
- 170. 1887, GEORGE WILDER with eagle in center
- 180. 1841, Use G.G.G.
- 190. 1838, SMITH & GEMRIG

## U.S. HALF DIMES



220. 1837 and other dates; Use G.G.G.

3¢ SILVER



240. DR. G. G. WILKINS

Many individuals have put their names or initials on these coins and it is possible that from time to time that some of these will be found to be legitimate store cards. I am listing a few examples from my own collection.

1798 silver dollar, N.S. in square

1797 silver dollar, M.E. COFFIN

1822 half-dollar, RUEGER

1805 quarter, O. H. MUNSON in curved small counterstamp

1834 dime, B. S.

1845 half-dime, S. LOOMIS

1868 half-dollar, LUCY LAW

Some of the U. S. silver coins also known with Masonic counterstamps on them and in some cases the reverse or obverse has been shaved then engraved for use as Royal Arch Chapter pennies.

Some of these initialed coins will be found to be the marks of silversmiths and many of these have great historical value.

Some of these U. S. silver coins have been used as presentation pieces for anniversaries, retirements, athletic events, etc. and many of them have been beautifully stamped or engraved. A few examples are as follows:

- Trade dollar, 1873, beautifully engraved, "G. P. Mitchell" with old steam engine.
- 1810 half-dollar, "Presented to Miss Lydia Convers by A. Nettleton for her kind attention to him during sickness in the M. G. Hospital, 1824." This is beautifully engraved.
- 1854 half-dollar, rev. "Quinebaug Cornet Band."
- 1853 silver dollar engraved "Honorable Daniel Wells, Jr. to J.L.Davis, 1862." J. L. Davis died Aug. 10, 1867.
- 1878 half-dollar; "Sunday School of Christ Church, Medford."
- 1887 quarter; "Our Whist Club, First Prize, 1887."
- Lib seated quarter, rev. "Running High Kick, 3rd Class, F. Burgess, 6' 8", 1894."

These items make an interesting addition to any collection.

Occasionally these old silver coins were used for admission tickets and one example from my collection is a Silver Dollar, 1799, engraved "Seymour Harris, Park Theatre, No. ( ), New York, Aug. 9, 1834;" Rev. "W.R."

While the following are not U.S. silver coins, the Store Cards or advertising on these particular pieces would be of interest to any collector in the counterstamped field.

- Baden, 2 marks, silver. Stamped BUFFALO NUMISMATIC ORGANIZATION, ORGANIZED MAY 13, 1927.
- Prussia silver, JONES EXCHANGE HOTEL, 77 DOCK ST. (Pennsylvania).
- New Granda Dollar, 1839, J.L. POLHEMUS, DRUGGIST, 190 J ST., COR. 7TH, SACRAMENTO, CALIF.
- Chinese Silver Dollar, Stamped PRESIDENT, R.H. LLOYD; TREASURER, N.H. HOPKINS; SECRETARY, S. MOSHER, 1931. Originally in the Mosher collection. Now in the collection of the author.

- Early French Crown, same as above
- English Crown of 1727, same as above
- French Crown, 1732. ADAMS, 1833. R. METCALF, WARRANTED, with small eagle.

A very unusual item is a badly double-struck silver counterfeit of a gold dollar stamped J.B. SHAW, BOOKSELLER. This is in the cabinet of the American Numismatic Society and probably unique.

While this listing does not include the counterstamps for use in various islands and countries, I would like to mention the R. F. counterstamp for Guadeloupe. Both bust halves and quarters with the R. F. counterstamp are known and I have seen several with the rare dates of 1815 quarter and 1815 half-dollar.

Another counterstamped coin that I would like to mention, although it is not a store card, might be called "The King of Counterstamps." In December of 1946, I received a letter from Gilbert Perez, at that time the Dean of Numismatists in the Philippines. Knowing of my interest in counterstamps, he informed me of a piece at the St. Thomas Museum, Manila. It is a 1794 U.S. silver dollar with the Manila countermark "Y.11.". This unique piece should have the distinction as the ultimate in rarity and desirability for collectors of U.S. counterstamped coins.

Two other counterstamps in which special interest has been shown are the F.R. Y11 monogram which was used between 1849 and 1859 and the Fleur-de-Lis counterstamp of Puerto Rico. Both of these are found on many U.S. silver coins from the twenty cent piece to silver dollars. They are both scarce and since their new listing in a specialized reference, they will steadily increase in popularity.

## COUNTERSTAMPED SPANISH AMERICAN SILVER COINS

This group also deals mainly with the counterstamped silver used for advertising purposes. The counterstamped coins used in the West Indies, etc. have been described and listed by Howland Wood, Gutttag, etc.

This series is one of the most interesting and difficult in token collecting. All of the pieces, except for the 2 reales, are rare to unique. Some of the 2 reale pieces may be found occasionally, but even these are very scarce. It was possible a number of years ago, in checking unpicked lots of coins, to find occasionally one of these counterstamped items, but it is hoped with this listing to have new items come to light.

This list also contains all of those which were listed by Adams, as well as many pieces which are new. Adams, in his monumental work on store cards and tokens, listed all of the pieces which he had been able to locate. But since this was published in 1920, new pieces come to light.

There are some numismatists who keep their compilations and listings to themselves and my feeling has always been that it is better to get the best listing possible and make it available to collectors than to wait another twenty years just to add a few pieces, as this work, in my opinion, can never be complete.

### 8 REALES

- 300. 1818 counterfeit, NEW ENGLAND HOUSE, struck twice on obverse
- 301. J.L. POLHEMUS, DRUGGIST, 190 J ST. COR. 7TH (Sacramento, Calif.)

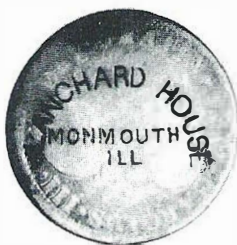
### 4 REALES

- 310. CONSULT DR. DARBY, BOSTON
- 314. 1813 WOOD'S MINSTRELS, 144 BROADWAY

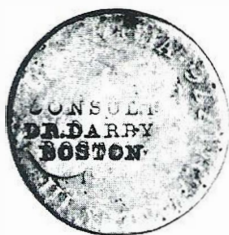
2 REALES



320. C.M. BERRY SALOON, N.W.C. 5th & CHESNUT PHILA.



321. 1786 BLANCHARD HOUSE, MONMOUTH, ILL  
 322. O. & P. BOUTWELL, 7 GRAND DIVISION ST., TROY, NEW YORK,  
 1835. Unique. Low #174  
 323. 1780, FINE PICTURES, CHEAPEST IN THE CITY. A. S. S.  
 BRADLEY. GILDER AND FRAMEMAKER AND MIRRORS, 154 WM.  
 ST., NEW YORK.



- 324. CONSULT DR. DARBY, BOSTON
- 325. Obv. CONSULT DR. DARBY, BOSTON; and GOOD FOR A BOTTLE OF PIERCE'S ROSETTA HAIR TONIC; Rev. CONSULT DR. DARBY (Gould collection)
- 326. HENRY DISSTON (Philadelphia Eagle)
- 327. EBLING'S COLUMBIAN, GARDEN, 200, BOWERY, N.Y.
- 328. FITCH'S; Counterstamped three times.



- 329. Pillar type; R. FLANAGAN'S PUNCH, 112 NO. 6TH ST. (punch-bowl in center) very rare
- 330. 1722. Guarantee Development Co. No. Beachhaven, New Jersey — extra rare. This piece is listed by Adams. Research has led us to believe the reverse die is merely a copy of a 2 Reale piece.
- 331. HOUCK'S PANACEA, BALTIMORE



- 332. 1807, HUTCHINGS, 385 B'WAY, N.Y.
- 333. JONES EXCHANGE HOTEL, 77 DOCK ST. incused (Pennsylvania)



- 334. 1761, J. T. JONES, SAN FRANCO. CORNER MONTG. AND COM-  
MERCIAL ST. in circle
- 335. KNIGHT'S MINERAL WATER SALOON, 99 BALTIMORE ST.
- 336. 1744 KUNKEL'S OPERA TROUPE -  
George J. Kunkel was one of the first delineators of negro minstrelsy  
in the United States and during his theatrical career was identified  
with three historic theatres in Baltimore. John Wilkes Booth and  
Joe Jefferson were in his company.
- 337. MERCHUTT'S METROPOLITAN COFFEE ROOM. RM. 433, BD.  
very rare
- 338. USE MILLER'S HAIR INVIGORATOR, 295 BOWERY, NEW YORK.  
This counterstamp or a similar one is found on many coins.
- 339. MODEL ARTIST EXHIBITION. ADMIT TO THE MODEL ARTISTS,  
127 GRAND, NEAR BROADWAY, very rare.

- 340. 1821, GOOD FOR A BOTTLE OF PIERCE'S ROSETTA HAIR TONIC
- 341. SACHEM OYSTER SALOON, 273 BOWERY, extra rare
- 342. STOLTZ'S SEGAR STORE, PHILA. PA.
- 343. THOMAS H. KOSSUTH'S EX. PHILA. PA.
- 344. 1822, J.M. TAYLOR, BROKER, CHATHAM ST., COR. JAMES
- 345. WYMAN, WIZARD AND VENTRILOQUIST
- 346. 1774, YOUNG, THE MAGICIAN

#### ONE REALE

- 400. USE DR. KIDDER'S FAMILY PILLS (in circle)
- 401. USE MILLER'S HAIR INVIGORATOR, 295 BOWERY, NEW YORK  
Only part of the stamp shows.
- 402. 1807, DR. KIMBALL, DENTIST, BOSTON
- 403. 1804, R. PAINE, SPRINGFIELD



- 404. 1821, STONE & BALL

#### ONE HALF REALE

- 410. E.F. SISE & CO. The above dies used on a Spanish ½ reale showing only a portion of the lettering. Unique (Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Low #132)

## CUT SECTION

415. P.B. (Puech, Bein & Co.) Script in circle of rings. Counterstamped on quarter section of Spanish 8 reales. Rev. Nouvelle, Orleans, and eagle counterstamped. Extra rare. In Gould and Fuld collections.

A number of the Spanish silver coins come with various initials and countermarks. I believe that some of these are silversmith's marks and that research in this area will bring out many interesting finds.

A few examples from my own collection are as follows:

W.S. on 2 reale

R.D. on both 1 reale and 4 reale

M.C. in square on 2 reale

B.P. in square on 2 reale

C.S. on 1 reale

There are many others which I do not feel it is necessary to list at this time until suitable research has been made.

Many of these Spanish American pieces have been engraved for use at 25th and 50th anniversaries and as prizes in various athletic and other events. I have also seen one side that has been shaved and a Masonic Chapter penny engraved on it.

With the great interest in Canadian numismatics today, I would like to mention one 1794, 2 reale, counterstamped "O.T. PETERSON, CH, TOWN, P.E.I." in a circle. This is extremely rare and is listed in my article in the CNA Journal of March of 1956.



